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Safety

CONFINED SPACE PROGRAM

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OPR: 62 AW/SEG (TSgt Darren R. Utecht)

Certified by: 62 AW/SE
(Lt Col Phillip C. Hannah, Jr.)

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1. Purpose. This instruction establishes the Confined Space Program for McChord AFB in accordance with the requirements of AFOSH STD. 91-25 and Title 29, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). This instruction applies to all personnel and units assigned or attached to McChord AFB. It contains requirements for practices and procedures, which provide protection for Air Force property and employees entering and working within confined spaces. This instruction will help minimize the potential for property damage, employee illness, injury, or death by ensuring confined spaces are evaluated for hazardous conditions and precautions are implemented by commanders and (or) functional managers to minimize or eliminate those conditions. The requirements identified in AFOSH STD. 91-25 Confined Spaces (1 February 1998) and Title 29 Code of Federal Regulations, are the mainstays by which all programs will be measured.

2. Hazards.

2.1. To be a *Confined Space*, the area must meet **all three conditions**:

Large enough and configured so that a worker can bodily enter and perform assigned work.

Limited or restricted means for entry or exit, for example: tanks, attics/crawl spaces, vessels, silos, storage bins, hoppers, vaults, manholes, certain trenches and pits are spaces that may have limited means of entry.

Not designed for continuous human occupancy.

3. Responsibilities: The unit commander and (or) functional manager in coordination with the Confined Space Program Team (CSPT), Fire Department (CEF), Safety (SEG) and Bioenvironmental Engineering (BE) will identify, evaluate, and classify each confined space within their area of responsibility. If per-

mit-required confined spaces are identified, the commander, functional manager and (or) supervisor will implement a written confined space program consistent with the requirements in AFOSH STD. 91-25.

3.1. Commanders, functional managers or supervisors will: Develop a written confined space program. Designate a representative to the CSPT to manage the confined space within their area of responsibility.

Ensure the Master Entry Plan (MEP) for confined spaces are current and up-to-date.

Procure required equipment to support entry and emergency egress out of confined spaces.

Maintain a current list of all confined spaces, both permit and non-permit required.

Maintain confined space records (MEPs and AF Form 1024s, Entry Permits) for a minimum of **Two** years for both permit and non-permit required confined spaces. These records will be available to the host installation ground safety staff, fire department, and bioenvironmental engineering staff.

Designate entry supervisors.

Ensure confined space training for supervisors, entrants, attendants, testers and (or) monitors, and rescue team members are certified, documented, and kept up-to-date.

Annually review all master entry plans for both permit and non-permit required confined spaces.

Submit a new MEP when changes occur to the confined space. If the confined space stays the same, only submit a Memorandum for Record. Both of these documents require the commander's signature and must be forwarded to the CSPT.

4. Classifications.

4.1. To be a ***Permit-Required Confined Space***, the area must meet **at least one** of the following conditions:

Contains or has the potential to contain a hazardous atmosphere, such as lack of oxygen, combustible atmosphere, or toxic atmosphere.

Contains a liquid or finely divided, solid material, such as sand or sawdust that could surround or engulf the entrant.

The area has a funnel shape, such as inwardly converging walls or a floor that slopes downward and tapers to a smaller cross section that could cause an entrant to be trapped or asphyxiated.

Any other characteristic recognized as a serious safety and health hazard, such as moving mechanical parts, high voltage, or extreme temperatures.

4.2. Non-Permit Confined Space.

4.2.1. These confined spaces are not considered hazardous and have no reasonable probability to become hazardous. Examples include lateral fuel pits under 5 feet deep and dikes less than 6 feet in height around fuel storage tanks.

4.2.2. Personnel entering or working in confined spaces may encounter a number of potentially serious conditions. Additional hazards include engulfment, entrapment, or any other safety and health hazard such as moving mechanical parts, high voltage, or extreme temperatures. Many of these hazards are not readily apparent, detectable by odor, or visible--which may result in workers entering confined spaces without consideration of the potential dangers.

5. Testing Confined Spaces: Qualified members on the CSPT team must complete initial classification testing of new confined spaces. Routine monitoring/testing requires a trained and certified member of the units confined space entry team. BE is the certifying for calibration and use of confined space monitors. Units will monitor every entry into non-permit required confined spaces and document test results.

6. Posting Signs: If confined spaces are designated as permit-required, which workers and other employees could inadvertently enter, the supervisor will inform personnel of the existence, location, and the danger of the permit space by posting signs. The signs will state: *"Danger Permit-Required Confined Space, Do Not Enter."* Confined spaces where personnel cannot inadvertently enter, such as those protected by manhole covers which require tools to remove, need not be posted.

7. Approved Equipment: Before purchasing equipment to support the confined space entry program coordinate with Fire Department, Bioenvironmental and Safety. Supervisors ensure testing and monitoring equipment used in confined spaces are approved for use in Class I, Division I and the appropriate group atmosphere, as defined in *NFPA 70, The National Electrical Code (NEC), Article 500, Hazardous (Classified) Locations*. Use only direct-reading equipment with current calibration. Initial exposure monitoring for contaminants which cannot be measured by direct-reading instruments, will be done by BE until adequately assessed.

7.1. Supervisors ensure certification is by Underwriter's Laboratories (UL), Factory Mutual (FM), or a similar nationally-recognized testing laboratory (NRTL) as defined by OSHA 29 CFR Part 1907, *Accreditation of Testing Laboratories*.

8. Emergency and Rescue Procedures: The MEP will include emergency and rescue procedures consistent with the nature of each known operation requiring entry into a permit-required confined space. When required to enter a non-routine, permit-required confined space (not included in the MEP), the entry supervisor will coordinate with the installation CEF, SEG, and BE. Means of rescue are as follows: Self-Rescue, Organizational Rescue Team, and Installation Fire Department. Notify the base fire department of all confined space entries that are permit-required. *NOTE:* Anytime a rescue or emergency egress is initiated, notify the fire department immediately at (911).

9. Documentation of Training: All confined space training for entry supervisors, entrants, attendants, testers and (or) monitors, and rescue team members will be certified, documented, and kept up-to-date. The certification will contain each individual's name, dates of training and either the initials or signature of the trainer and (or) instructor. Document training on an AF Form 55, Employee Safety and Health Record, AF Form 623, and or computer-generated products for safety-related items, such as cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), Lockout/Tagout, rescue team member, or respirator use. Training records will be available for review by the CSPT during annual program evaluations or spot checks.

10. Contractor Requirements : When an organization arranges to have a contractor perform work in a permit or non-permit required confined space, the organization will:

Notify the contractor of all known hazards associated with the permit or non-permit required confined spaces.

Ensure all information pertaining to the confined space is included in the statement of work (SOW) or equivalent contracting tool.

Advise the fire department of the contract proposal. The fire department will determine if they will provide rescue.

Brief the contractor on contents of the space and known hazards that make the space permit or non-permit required.

Brief the contractor on precautions and procedures implemented by the organization to protect the workers.

Coordinate entry operations and procedures with the contractor and agree upon the permit space entry system to be used when both organizational and contractor personnel are working in a permit-required confined space.

NOTE: The Air Force does not have any oversight or provide enforcement of the contractor's safety program.

RAYMOND E. JOHNS, JR., Colonel, USAF
Commander, 62 Airlift Wing